

**United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region VI
POLLUTION REPORT**

Date: Tuesday, February 27, 2007

From: Karen McCormick

Subject: Continuation of Action
Central Crude LaFourche Spill
9793 Highway 308, Lockport, LA
Latitude: 29.5898200
Longitude: -90.4435500

POLREP No.:	6	Site #:	NRC 827176
Reporting Period:	2/27/2007	D.O. #:	
Start Date:	2/22/2007	Response Authority:	OPA
Mob Date:	2/22/2007	Response Type:	Emergency
Demob Date:		NPL Status:	Non NPL
Completion Date:		Incident Category:	Removal Action
CERCLIS ID #:		Contract #	
RCRIS ID #:		Reimbursable Account #	
FPN#	E07607		

Site Description

On February 22, 2007, the National Response Center was notified of an oil spill from a 26,000 barrel above ground storage tank (tank 9195) associated with the Central Crude Valentine Facility adjacent to Bayou Lafourche in Lockport, Lafourche Parish, Louisiana (NRC No. 827176). The facility address is 9793 Highway 308, Lockport, Louisiana. The spill was a result of the failure of a four inch flexible hose used to transfer crude oil from the oil storage tank through a pump into a pipeline. The facility operator began transferring oil from tank 9195 at 0130 hours on the morning of 22 February, 2007. The operator discovered spilled oil in tank 9195 secondary containment at 0530 on the same day. Oil from tank 9195 seeped from its secondary containment, into an adjacent tank's secondary containment through a storm water drainage valve. The oil then traveled to the secondary containment storm water discharge valve. The valve was closed, however; the soil surrounding the piping and valve leading from the interior of the secondary containment to an adjacent canal had eroded. This provided the oil a pathway from the secondary containment into the canal. The canal is approximately 400 feet long, and from the entrance of the drainage piping, it flows approximately 150 feet south into Bayou Lafourche. Oil from the facility entered Bayou Lafourche, a tidally influenced, navigable waterway of the United States. The operator terminated transfer of oil through the failed hose and notified the facility manager who activated the facility's response contractor, Environmental Safety and Health, Inc. (ES&H). The operator closed the valve between the secondary containment units, and placed onsite boom across the canal mouth in an attempt to prevent additional oil from reaching the bayou. The facility operator estimates that approximately 1,800 barrels (bbls) of crude oil was discharged through the broken hose, of which 1,600 bbls remained within the secondary containment units, 100 bbls was contained within the canal, and 100 bbls entered Bayou Lafourche. This estimate is greater than the initial estimate of 350 bbls. ES&H personnel arrived at the spill scene on February 22, 2007 at 0900 and initiated containment and recovery activities. The spill impacted the 400 feet of the canal and approximately 1.1 miles of Bayou Lafourche.

Due to the proximity of the spill to the United States Coast Guard MST 3 in Houma, LA and the impact to a navigable waterway, two USCG representatives, Petty Officers Hendry and Ariail, responded to the spill scene at 0830 on 22 February 2007. Upon arrival of EPA representatives, the USCG provided the representatives with a briefing of events and transferred oversight responsibilities to the EPA and departed the spill scene.

Current Activities

On 27 February 2007, resources were continued to be focused on the recovery of spilled oil in Bayou Lafourche. ES&H continued to exchange oil saturated sorbent boom, corral oil by washing, recover pockets of oil as they gathered, and skimming operations at the mouth of the service canal. During a visual inspection of impacted area of Bayou Lafourche by LDEQ representative, Tad Loupe, and START-3, Erik Hadwin, no black oil was observed uncontained; only oil observed was within containment boom along the banks of the bayou, and most of which was within cord grass along the northern bank. Through discussion between LDEQ, USCG, PRP, ES&H, and START-3 and approved by EPA, a barge will be allowed to enter contained area of Bayou Lafourche. ES&H will open containment boom for the barge and will resecure the boom as it passes. Potentially, this will allow the under tow of the barge to pull spilled oil from within cord grass out to be recovered, and serve as a test to the completion of clean-up effort.

Planned Removal Actions

RP clean up contractors will continue containment, clean up and recovery operations. Projected completion date has not been established. ES&H continues to focus resources on recovery of spilled oil in Bayou Lafourche. ES&H will mobilize additional oil recovery and containment equipment to the site as necessary, and plan to reopen Bayou Lafourche once threat has been mitigated. Plains Marketing, owner of transfer facility, plans to repair damaged storm drain that allowed spilled oil to enter Bayou Lafourche by end of the week. Allow barge to enter containment area, which is planned for 28 February 2007 at approximately 1400 hrs.

Next Steps

EPA representatives will return to the site on 28 February 2007 to document response activities and communicate that information to the OSC.

Key Issues

- Spill affected Bayou Lafourche a tidally influenced navigable waterway of the US.
- Shorelines of the bayou are comprised of cord grass and reeds making recovery of oil from the vegetated areas difficult.
- Significant boat operations will be necessary for recovery.
- The bayou has been closed to recreational and commercial boat traffic.
- Potential for impact to wildlife.

www.epaosc.org/centralcrude